

AMENDED IN SENATE JANUARY 7, 2002

SENATE BILL

No. 457

Introduced by Senator Scott

February 22, 2001

An act to add ~~Article 5.5 (commencing with Section 66055) to Chapter 2 of Part 40 of the Education Code, relating to public postsecondary education, and repeal Section 69642.5 of the Education Code, relating to community colleges, and making an appropriation therefor.~~

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 457, as amended, Scott. ~~Public postsecondary education: nursing programs~~ *Community colleges: learning community services.*

Existing law establishes the California State University and provides for its administration by the Trustees of the California State University. Existing law designates 25 institutions of higher education as components of the California State University, and authorizes these institutions to provide various academic programs. Existing law establishes the California Community Colleges under the administration of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. Existing law authorizes the establishment of community college districts under the administration of community college governing boards, and authorizes these districts to provide instruction at community college campuses throughout the state.

Existing law establishes the Community College Extended Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS) program in order to encourage community colleges to establish and implement programs directed to identifying those students affected by language, social, and economic disadvantages, to increase the number of eligible EOPS

students served, and to assist those students to achieve their educational objectives and goals, including, but not necessarily limited to, obtaining job skills, occupational certificates, or associate degrees, and transferring to 4-year postsecondary institutions.

This bill would require the ~~Chancellor~~ Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges and the ~~Chancellor of the California State University~~ to standardize all nursing program prerequisites on a statewide basis between the 2 systems, enter into transfer agreements between all of the universities of the California State University and all community colleges statewide, and create and implement a statewide nursing program vacancy information system to select, and allocate funds to, not more than 8 community college districts in order to provide, on a pilot program basis, learning community services, as defined, on campuses of those districts.

The bill would require the board of governors to report, not later than July 1, 2004, to the Legislature regarding the effectiveness of the pilot program.

The bill would repeal the pilot program on January 1, 2005.

The bill would continuously appropriate \$150,000, for expenditure without regard to fiscal year, from the General Fund to the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges for the purposes of the bill. Any amounts allocated under the bill to community college districts would be applied toward the minimum funding requirements for school districts and community college districts imposed by Section 8 of Article XVI of the California Constitution.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: ~~no~~ yes. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 ~~SECTION 1.—Article 5.5 (commencing with Section 66055)~~
- 2 *SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the*
- 3 *following:*
- 4 *(a) A significant number of California community college*
- 5 *students struggle with their initial courses, especially those*
- 6 *students with language, social, or economic disadvantages,*
- 7 *including those students eligible for participation in the*
- 8 *Community College Extended Opportunity Programs and*
- 9 *Services (EOPS) programs.*

1 ***(b) Disadvantaged by poor preparation, many of these students***
2 ***require a learning environment that provides additional***
3 ***opportunities for contact with faculty, counselors, and other EOPS***
4 ***students.***

5 ***(c) The creation of supplemental “learning community***
6 ***services” can provide this additional support by bringing faculty***
7 ***and counseling staff into the classroom at regular intervals for***
8 ***workshops to help students develop the skills and relationships***
9 ***they need to succeed.***

10 ***(d) A small number of informal learning community services***
11 ***established in the California Community Colleges have delivered***
12 ***promising results, including improvements in students’ persistence***
13 ***and grade point averages.***

14 **SEC. 2.** ***Section 69642.5 is added to the Education Code, to***
15 ***read:***

16 ***69642.5. From moneys appropriated for purposes of this***
17 ***section, the board of governors shall select from among applicant***
18 ***districts not more than eight community college districts in order***
19 ***to provide, on a pilot program basis, learning community services***
20 ***on college campuses of those selected districts. The board of***
21 ***governors shall establish appropriate criteria and procedures for***
22 ***the purpose of selecting, on a competitive application basis,***
23 ***community college districts for participation in the program***
24 ***established by this section and for the allocation of funds to these***
25 ***districts.***

26 ***(b) Not later than July 1, 2004, the board of governors shall***
27 ***report to the Legislature regarding the effectiveness of providing***
28 ***learning community services programs on the campuses of those***
29 ***districts participating in the pilot program established by this***
30 ***section.***

31 ***(c) As used in this section, “learning community services”***
32 ***means a program of additional assistance and support provided by***
33 ***faculty and counseling staff that is provided in classrooms at***
34 ***regular intervals as workshops involving EOPS students in order***
35 ***to develop the skills and relationships that are needed to succeed***
36 ***in college.***

37 ***(d) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1,***
38 ***2005, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute,***
39 ***that is enacted before January 1, 2005, deletes or extends that date.***

1 SEC. 3. (a) Notwithstanding Section 13340 of the
2 Government Code, the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars
3 (\$150,000) is hereby continuously appropriated, for expenditure
4 without regard to fiscal year, from the General Fund to the
5 Chancellor of the California Community Colleges for the purposes
6 of Section 69642.5 of the Education Code.

7 (b) For the purposes of making the computations required by
8 Section 8 of Article XVI of the California Constitution, any
9 amounts allocated to community college districts pursuant to this
10 act shall be deemed to be "General Fund revenues appropriated
11 to community college districts," as defined in subdivision (d) of
12 Section 41202 of the Education Code, and shall be included within
13 the "total allocations to school districts and community college
14 districts from General Fund proceeds of taxes appropriated
15 pursuant to Article XIII B," as defined in subdivision (e) of Section
16 41202 of the Education Code, for the fiscal year for which they are
17 allocated.

18 is added to Chapter 2 of Part 40 of the Education Code, to read:

19
20 ~~Article 5.5. — Nursing Program Educational Streamlining and~~
21 ~~Core Course Standardization Act~~
22

23 ~~66055. The Legislature finds and declares all of the~~
24 ~~following:~~

25 ~~(a) California is currently experiencing the beginning of a~~
26 ~~nursing shortage that, if left unchecked, will jeopardize the public~~
27 ~~health.~~

28 ~~(b) Nationally, California ranks last among the 50 states in the~~
29 ~~proportion of registered nurses per 100,000 population.~~

30 ~~(c) As the baby boom population ages, the need for a larger~~
31 ~~nursing work force will increase dramatically.~~

32 ~~(d) California has a highly saturated managed care market~~
33 ~~where only the sickest patients are hospitalized, and as more of the~~
34 ~~population ages, a greater number of more acutely ill people will~~
35 ~~require not only more registered nurses, but more highly trained~~
36 ~~and specialized registered nurses.~~

37 ~~(e) The average age of registered nurses in California is 47~~
38 ~~years of age, 30 percent of the work force is over 50 years of age,~~
39 ~~and retirements are increasing each year.~~

1 ~~(f) California's nursing programs are at capacity, most~~
2 ~~associate degree programs, which educate 70 percent of the~~
3 ~~registered nurses, have waiting lists of up to three years, and~~
4 ~~qualified associate degree and baccalaureate degree applicants are~~
5 ~~being turned away.~~

6 ~~(g) Waiting times for students who are interested in enrolling~~
7 ~~in nursing programs are unacceptably long and are not consistent~~
8 ~~with the needs of the state.~~

9 ~~(h) Nonstandardized prerequisite nursing courses in California~~
10 ~~unduly increase the time and expense for a community college or~~
11 ~~associate degree registered nurse student to complete a~~
12 ~~baccalaureate degree program.~~

13 ~~(i) The lack of formal statewide transfer agreements between~~
14 ~~the community colleges and the state colleges unduly increases the~~
15 ~~time required for students to complete advanced nursing~~
16 ~~programs.~~

17 ~~(j) The lack of a statewide nursing program vacancy~~
18 ~~information system unnecessarily slows admissions of qualified~~
19 ~~students into programs throughout California.~~

20 ~~66056. The Chancellor of the California Community~~
21 ~~Colleges and the Chancellor of the California State University~~
22 ~~shall do all of the following:~~

23 ~~(a) Standardize all nursing program prerequisites on a~~
24 ~~statewide basis between the two systems of higher education.~~

25 ~~(b) Enter into transfer agreements between all of the~~
26 ~~universities of the California State University and all community~~
27 ~~colleges statewide.~~

28 ~~(c) Create and implement a statewide nursing program vacancy~~
29 ~~information system that will allow any student desiring to enter a~~
30 ~~nursing program to efficiently determine the location of programs~~
31 ~~with vacancies.~~